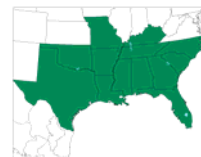


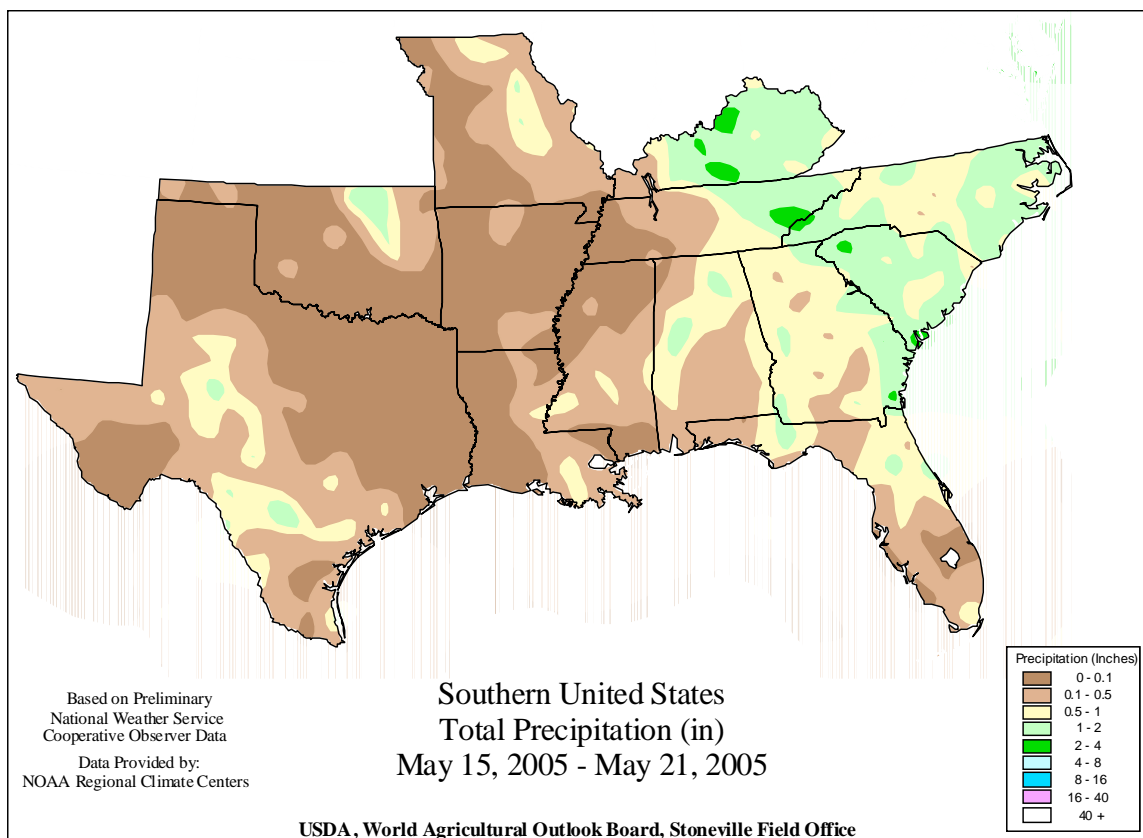


**Office of the Chief Economist
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Stoneville Field Office**



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER REPORT

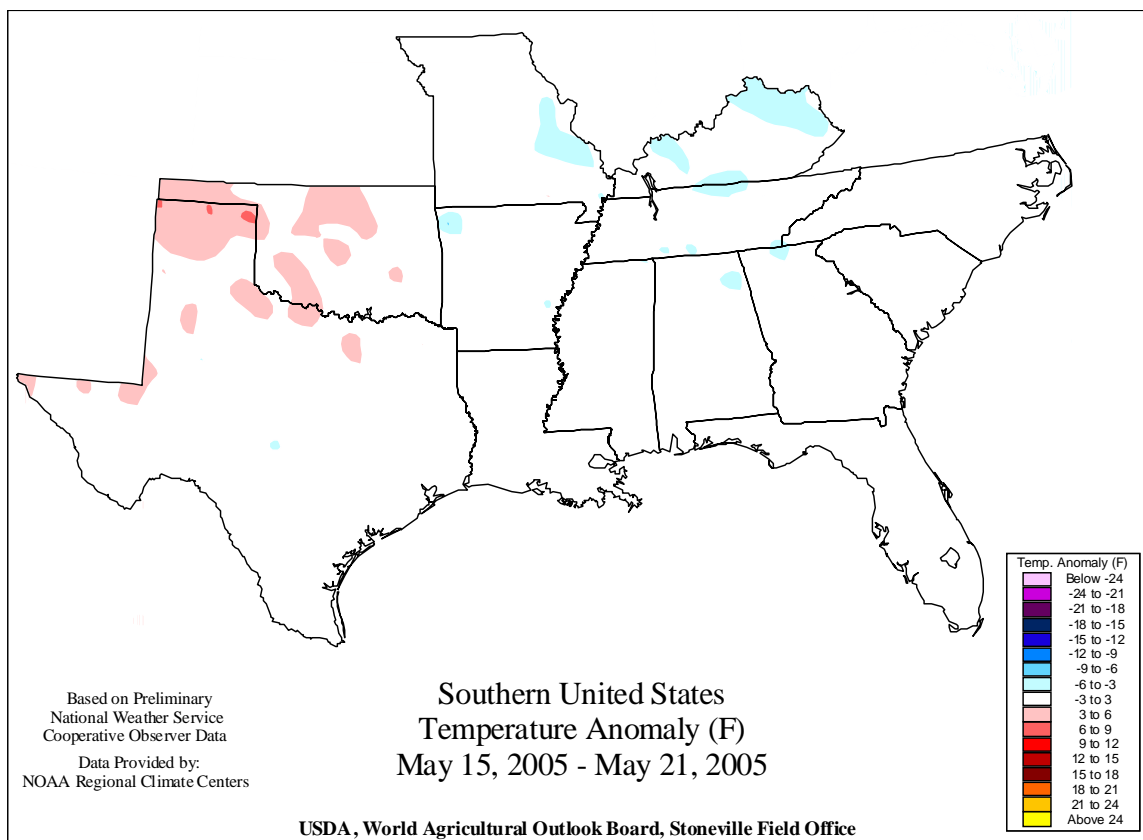
May 15 to 21 2005



Weather Highlights

A slow-moving cold front crossed the southern United States during the week. Most rainfall occurred in the eastern sector of the region. The highest amounts of rain, ranging from 1 to 2 inches or more, fell in Kentucky, eastern Tennessee, and the Carolinas. Isolated locations in Georgia, Florida, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas received up to 1 inch of rain. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather prevailed.

Weekly temperatures averaged near normal in most states. The exceptions were in parts of Kentucky, Missouri, and Arkansas, where weekly temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees F below normal. Some daily lows in northern Missouri dropped to the upper 30's. However, temperatures quickly rebounded by midweek, as high pressure ushered in warmer weather. Some areas in Texas and Oklahoma reported weekly temperatures 3 to 6 degrees F above normal.



The Mississippi Delta received little, or no rain, during the week. Most areas received less than .25 inches of rain, while enduring 90 degrees F or higher temperatures for three days or so. Early in the week, temperatures fell below normal. Stoneville recorded a maximum temperature of 75 degrees F on May 17, approximately 7 degrees F below normal for that date. Temperatures quickly rebounded to above normal, increasing as much as 15 degrees F in three days' time. Northern locations, such as in Tunica and Perthshire, recorded daily highs of 95 degrees F. Southerly winds helped moisture return on Friday, but storms were widely scattered.

(For additional information, contact Nancy Lopez at 662-686-3395)

Agricultural Summary

United States Crop Progress Report*

Week Ending

		May 22, 2005	May 15, 2005	May 22, 2004	2000-2004 Average
		Percent			
Cotton	Planted	68	55	72	70
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	64			
Corn	Planted	95	89	95	88
	Emerged	66	41	79	66
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	63			
Rice	Planted	94	87	93	92
	Emerged	78	63	83	79
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	58			
Soybeans	Planted	65	46	65	56
	Emerged	27	11	38	28

*Source: USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Cotton:

Planting advanced to 68 percent complete, 4 points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average. Sixty-four percent of the crop was estimated to be in good to excellent condition. Planting in Arkansas (97 percent planted), Tennessee (95 percent planted), and Georgia (61 percent planted) advanced over 20 points during the week. Georgia and Oklahoma (43 percent planted) continued to trail well behind their 5-year average planting pace. All southern states had cotton emerged, led by Louisiana and Mississippi with 88 and 81 percent emerged, respectively.

Corn:

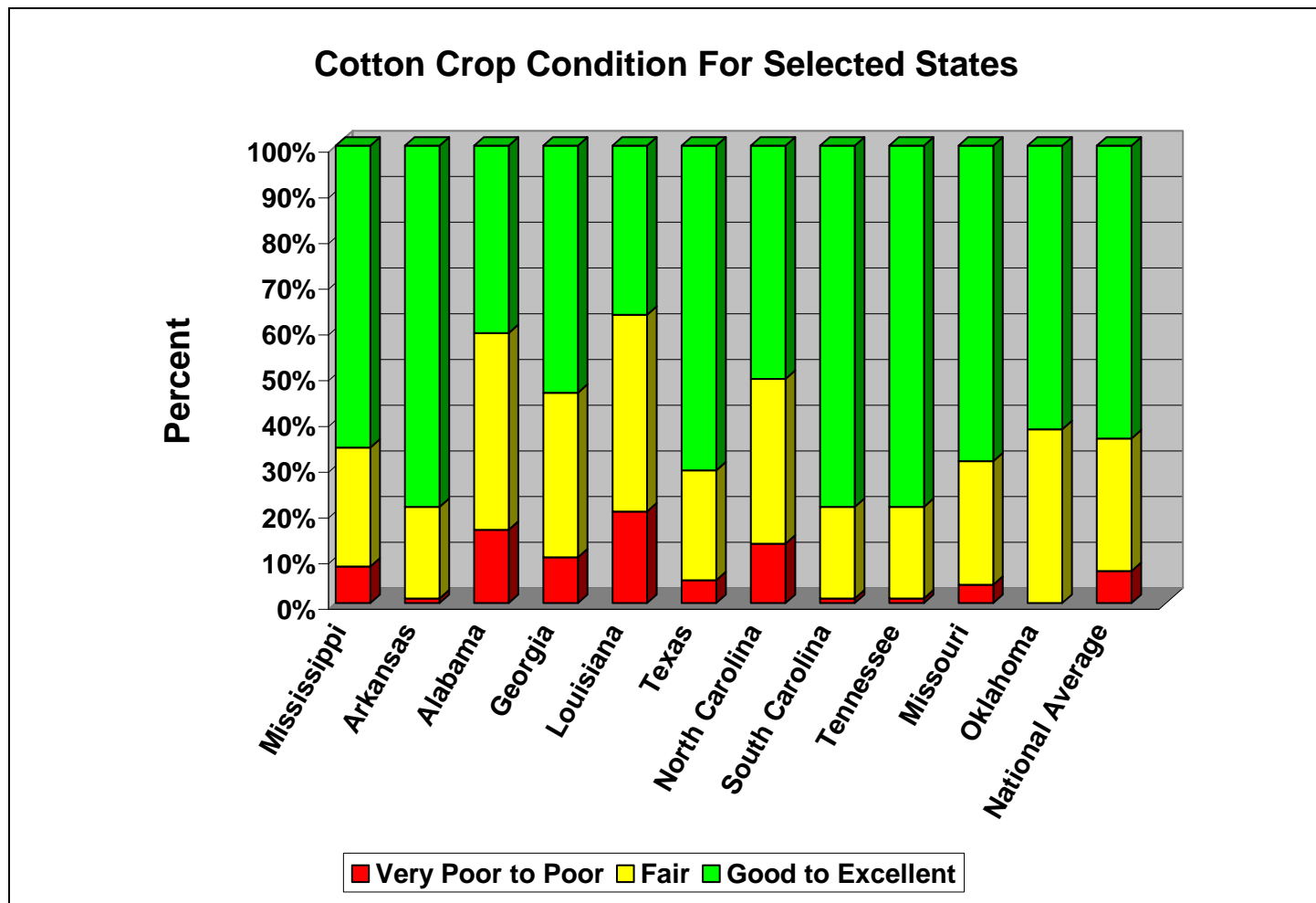
Growers had planted 95 percent of the Nation's crop, equal to last year and 7 points ahead of the 5-year average. Emergence progressed 25 points to 66 percent emerged nationally, and 63 percent of the crop was considered to be good to excellent. All southern states reported at least 80 percent of their crop emerged and all were within 10 points of their 5-year average. Texas (80 percent emerged) trailed all other southern states and lagged the most behind its own 5-year average.

Rice:

Planting was 94 percent complete, 1 point ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Seventy-eight percent of the crop had emerged, 5 points behind last year and 1 point behind the 5-year average. Nationally, 58 percent of the crop was rated good to excellent. Emergence was most rapid in Missouri (83 percent emerged) and Arkansas (88 percent emerged) where 23 and 21 percent of the crop emerged, respectively, during the week. Emergence in all southern states equaled or was ahead of the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 95 percent in Mississippi, 96 percent in Louisiana, and 97 percent in Texas.

Soybeans:

Planting progressed 19 points to 65 percent complete, equaling last year and surpassing the 5-year average by 9 points. Mississippi (95 percent planted) and Arkansas (75 percent planted) led, followed by Louisiana, Texas, and Missouri, all with 65 percent planted. Mississippi had 89 percent of their crop emerged followed by Louisiana and Arkansas, both at 55 percent. Crop emergence was within 10 points of the 5-year average in most southern states. The exceptions were Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi where emergence was ahead of the 5-year average by 22, 16, and 15 points, respectively. Oklahoma lagged its 5-year average by 13 points.



Cotton Conditions by State:

Crop ratings in Louisiana and Alabama were the lowest of all southern states, with only 37 and 41 percent, respectively, rated good to excellent. Georgia followed with only 54 percent. The states with the highest ratings were Arkansas, N. Carolina, and S. Carolina with 79 percent of their crop rated good to excellent.

(For Additional Information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)